

MARVEL

#24

SOULE • MORGAN • MILLA

# DAREDEVIL



David Spon



WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A TRUCK CARRYING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY. HE IS THE *MAN WITHOUT FEAR*. HE IS...

# DAREDEVIL

MATT MURDOCK WON HIS FIRST VICTORY IN THE NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT. HAVING CONVINCED THE COURT TO ALLOW DAREDEVIL TO TESTIFY AS A WITNESS WITHOUT REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY (WHICH, UNBEKNOWNST TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, IS MATT MURDOCK), A PRECEDENT WAS SET THAT COULD LEGITIMIZE SUPER HEROES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEGAL PROCESS. BUT THERE ARE THOSE THAT ARE UNHAPPY WITH MATT'S AGENDA—AMONG THEM WILSON FISK (A.K.A. THE KINGPIN), WHO HAS BEGUN A TWO-PRONGED STRIKE AGAINST MATT. FISK HAS SECRETLY HIRED THE EXPERT KNOWN ONLY AS LEGAL TO FIGHT MURDOCK IN COURT, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY ENGAGING TOMBSTONE AS PLAN B TO SNUFF OUT MURDOCK ON THE STREETS. MATT HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PRESS ON...

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# SUPREME

## PART 4

★★★★  
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# MATT MURDOCK:

# LOSER



A.D.A.  
Matthew Murdock.  
File Photo.

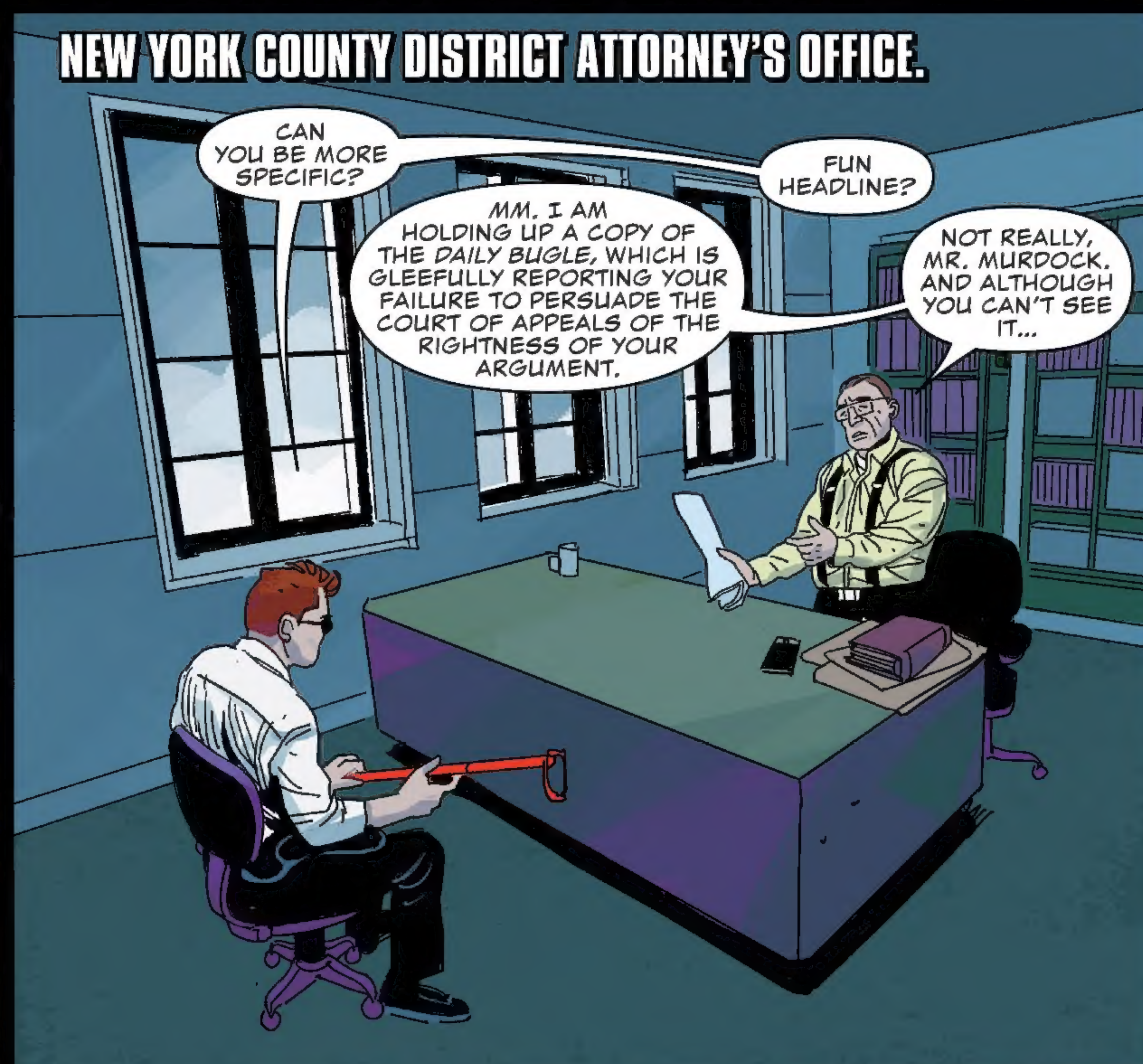
## Assistant District Attorney Matthew Murdock Drops the Ball at State Court of Appeals

There was once a time when Matthew Murdock was considered one of the best lawyers in New York City. Those days, when he was working in private practice as a criminal defense attorney, must seem like a distant memory to the beleaguered A.D.A. The highest court in the state, the New York State Court of Appeals, ruled against him recently in a 4-3 decision in *People v. Sluggan*. We don't know whose idea it was to put infamous vigilante Daredevil on the stand as a witness, but the high court didn't go for it, and Murdock's getting the blame. We say rightly so – after all, this paper's position on these so-called “crime fighters” is well known, and anything that tries to legitimize their activities is a no-go zone! The court's decision was based on a number of

THIS IS  
UNACCEPTABLE.



NEW YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.



CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?

FUN HEADLINE?

MM, I AM HOLDING UP A COPY OF THE DAILY BUGLE, WHICH IS GLEEFULLY REPORTING YOUR FAILURE TO PERSUADE THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE RIGHTNESS OF YOUR ARGUMENT.

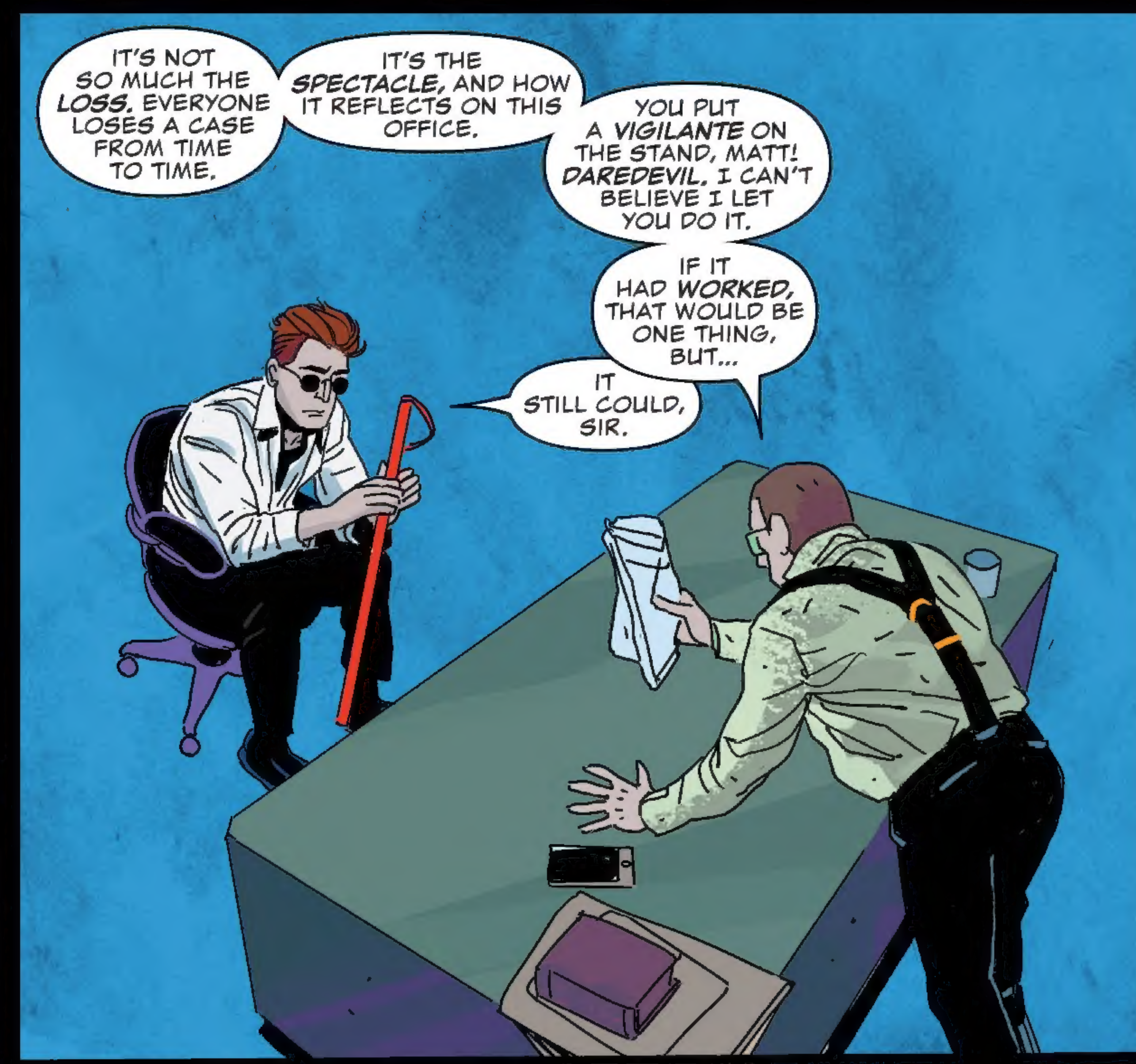
NOT REALLY, MR. MURDOCK, AND ALTHOUGH YOU CAN'T SEE IT...



...EVERYONE ELSE CAN. I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN CALLS FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, ALBANY...IT PUTS ME IN A TERRIBLE POSITION.

AH, WAIT, YOU ASKED THAT I BE SPECIFIC.

IT PUTS YOU IN A TERRIBLE POSITION.



IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE LOSS, EVERYONE LOSES A CASE FROM TIME TO TIME.

IT'S THE SPECTACLE, AND HOW IT REFLECTS ON THIS OFFICE.

YOU PUT A VIGILANTE ON THE STAND, MATT! DAREDEVIL, I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET YOU DO IT.

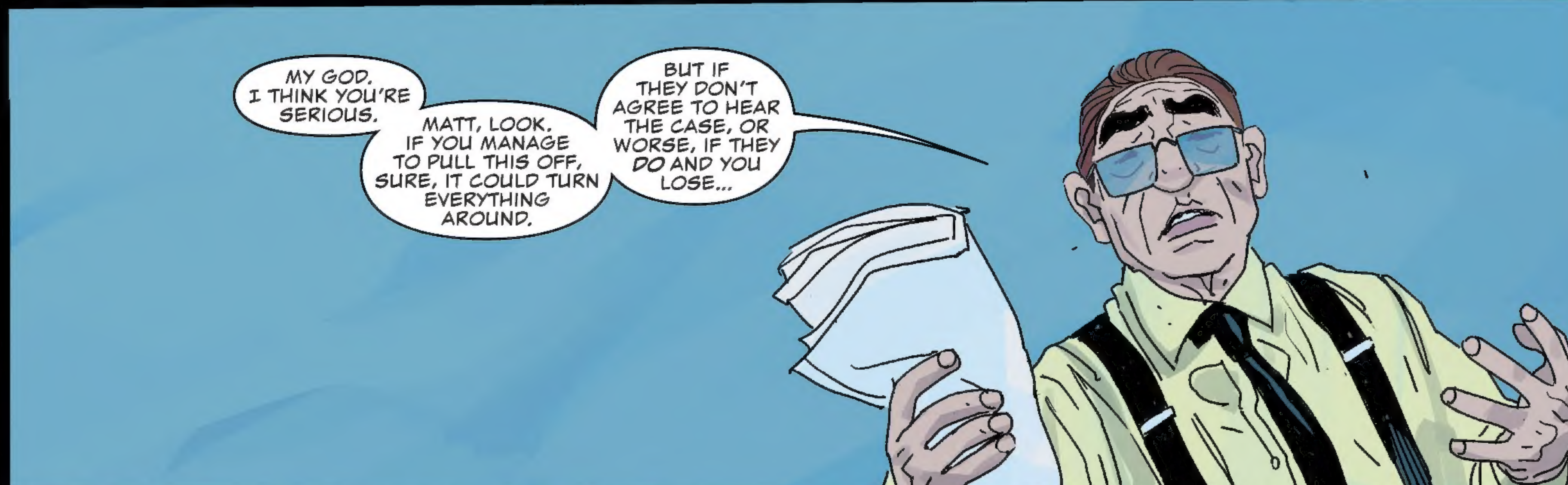
IF IT HAD WORKED, THAT WOULD BE ONE THING, BUT...

IT STILL COULD, SIR.



THERE'S STILL ONE MORE LEVEL OF APPEAL. I COULD FILE FOR CERTIORARI...TAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.

I WON AT TRIAL LEVEL, AND THEN AGAIN AT THE FIRST APPEAL. THE DECISION I DID LOSE WAS SPLIT, 4-3. IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS A SLAM DUNK FOR THE OTHER SIDE.



MY GOD, I THINK YOU'RE SERIOUS.

MATT, LOOK, IF YOU MANAGE TO PULL THIS OFF, SURE, IT COULD TURN EVERYTHING AROUND.

BUT IF THEY DON'T AGREE TO HEAR THE CASE, OR WORSE, IF THEY DO AND YOU LOSE...



...YOU'LL LOOK LIKE A MANIAC, TILTING AT WINDMILLS. IT'LL END YOUR CAREER.

WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME.

I WON'T STOP YOU--IT'S STILL YOUR CASE--BUT YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. D.A. RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL ARE OFF-LIMITS. AS FAR AS THIS OFFICE IS CONCERNED...



...YOU HAVE NO FRIENDS.



MIDTOWN.

YOU  
ACTUALLY BEAT  
MURDOCK.

I  
HAD MY  
DOUBTS, LEGAL,  
BUT YOU DID  
WELL.

LOOKS LIKE  
THE LAW WAS  
ON MY SIDE,  
FOR ONCE.

NO,  
MR. FISK.  
THAT IS NOT  
CORRECT.

THE LAW  
IS ON NO ONE'S  
SIDE. IT CAN BE USED  
TO SUPPORT ANY POSITION,  
IF THE ATTORNEY MAKING  
THE RELEVANT ARGUMENTS  
IS SUFFICIENTLY  
SKILLED.

THE  
LAW IS AN  
ABSTRACTION.  
A TOOL. NAY, AN  
INSTRUMENT TO  
BE PLAYED.

MR.  
MURDOCK AND I  
ARE BOTH VIRTUOSOS.  
THE JUSTICES SIMPLY  
ENJOYED MY TUNE  
MORE THAN  
HIS.

SO, THE  
LAW'S NOT ON  
MY SIDE...

...BUT YOU  
ARE.

AREN'T I  
LUCKY.

LUCK HAS  
NOTHING TO  
DO WITH IT, MR.  
FISK. YOU ARE  
MY CLIENT.

UNTIL SUCH  
TIME AS YOU ARE  
NOT, HOWEVER...  
YES. I AM...

... "ON YOUR  
SIDE."





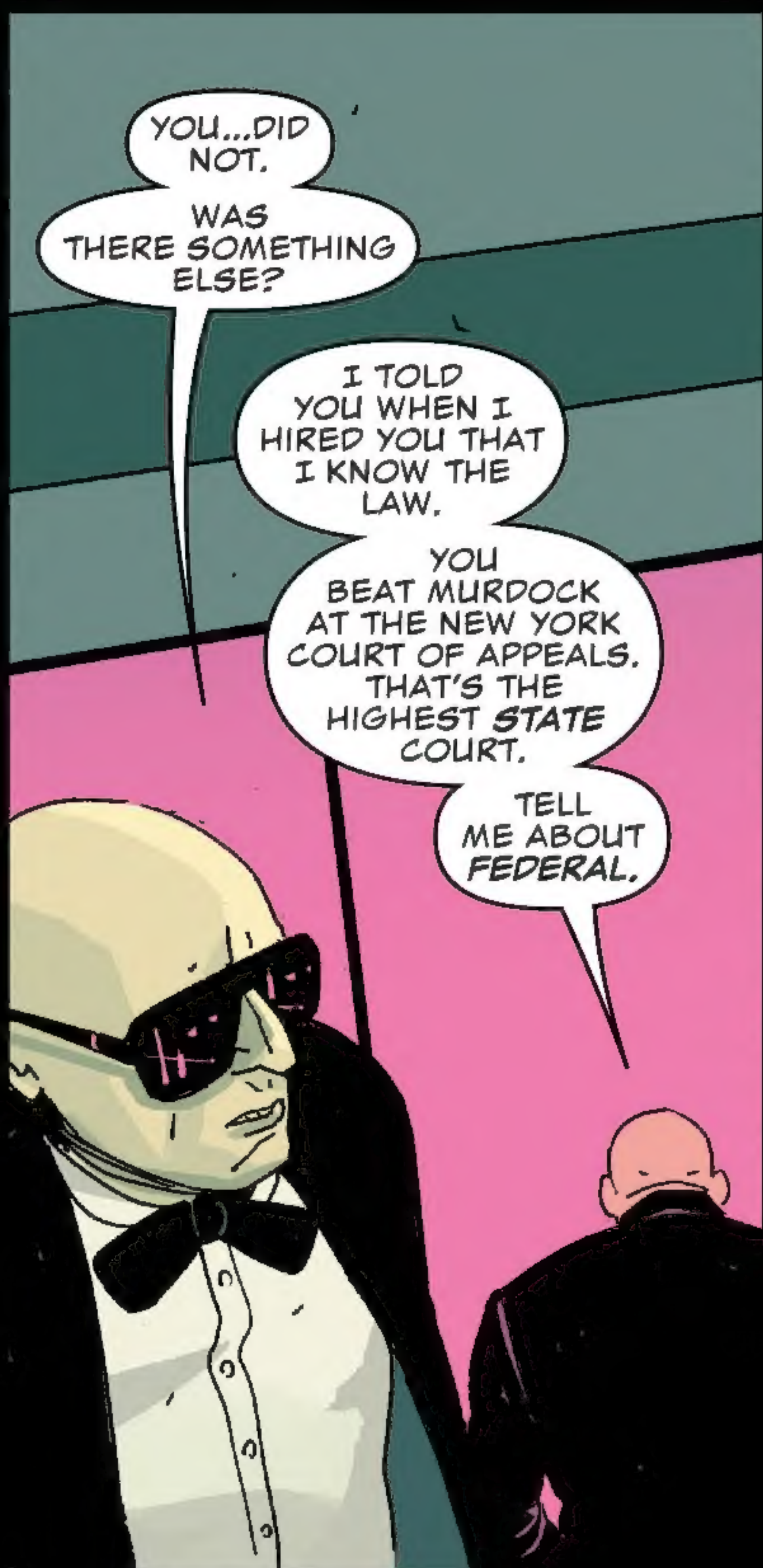
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE DELIVERED THE SERVICE YOU HIRED ME TO PERFORM.

I WILL BE ON MY WAY, AS WILL MY INVOICE. DO REACH OUT IF YOU REQUIRE MY AID IN THE FUTURE.

LEGAL...



...DID I SAY YOU COULD LEAVE?



YOU...DID NOT. WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?

I TOLD YOU WHEN I HIRED YOU THAT I KNOW THE LAW.

YOU BEAT MURDOCK AT THE NEW YORK COURT OF APPEALS. THAT'S THE HIGHEST STATE COURT.

TELL ME ABOUT FEDERAL.



THE D.A. *COULD* CONTINUE THE SLUGANSKY MATTER BY FILING A PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI...BUT THAT WOULD BE A DESPERATE MOVE.

IT WOULD REQUIRE AN EXCEPTIONAL LEGAL MIND IF IT WERE TO EVEN HAVE THE *SLIGHTEST* CHANCE OF SUCCESS.



A VIRTUOSO, YOU MIGHT SAY.

I...YES. A VIRTUOSO.







# HELL'S KITCHEN.



THIS PLACE AGAIN, FOGGY?

COME ON, ALINA, YOU LOVE IT.

YOU THINK SO?



THIS PLACE IS GREAT! WHAT DOESN'T IT HAVE?

CLEAN GLASSES, ANYTHING OTHER THAN BEER, ACCEPTABLE AROMAS...

I KNOW! IT'S THE BEST! WE SHOULD--



HEY, FOGGY.

HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING.





I WOULDN'T WANT TO DASH YOUR HOPES, BUT YOU KIND OF ARE.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT-- BUT I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO YOU. IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

YES IT WILL. IT ALWAYS DOES.



THAT'S HIM, ISN'T IT? THE ONE YOU TALK ABOUT ALL THE TIME. THE ONE YOU ALWAYS CALL A--

YES. BUT HE HAS EXCELLENT HEARING, SO LET'S SAVE SOME OF MY MORE CHOICE REMARKS FOR WHEN HE'S NOT AROUND.

I SHOULD TALK TO HIM. I'M SORRY, BUT WOULD YOU MIND--

LEAVING THIS BAR? NOT AT ALL. I'LL GO HOME. I THINK I NEED A BATH AFTER THIS PLACE ANYWAY. TEXT ME LATER, MAYBE YOU CAN JOIN ME.



SHE SEEMS GREAT.

SHE IS. YOU'D BE AMAZED AT HOW LIFE IMPROVES WHEN YOU STOP BEING A SUPER HERO'S BESTEST PAL.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, MATT?



SOMEONE TOLD ME NOT LONG AGO THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

THOUGHT I MIGHT PROVE HIM WRONG.



YEAH. GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

BARKEEP!





HOW'D YOU KNOW I'D BE HERE?

IT WASN'T ROCKET SCIENCE.



THIS BAR HAS FREE HOT DOGS, AND IT'S TWO BLOCKS FROM YOUR PLACE. I FIGURED YOU'RE PROBABLY HERE THREE NIGHTS A WEEK.

YOU'VE STOPPED PICKING UP WHEN I CALL. THOUGHT I'D STAKE THIS PLACE OUT UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP. FIRST TIME LUCKY, I GUESS.



NOT LUCKY AT ALL, MR. GENIUS, BECAUSE I AM IN FACT HERE SIX NIGHTS A WEEK. YOU'D HAVE TO GET LUCKY FOR ME NOT TO BE HERE.

IT'S THAT DAMN CASE OF YOURS, ISN'T IT? THE SLUGANSKY TRIAL.

YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT?

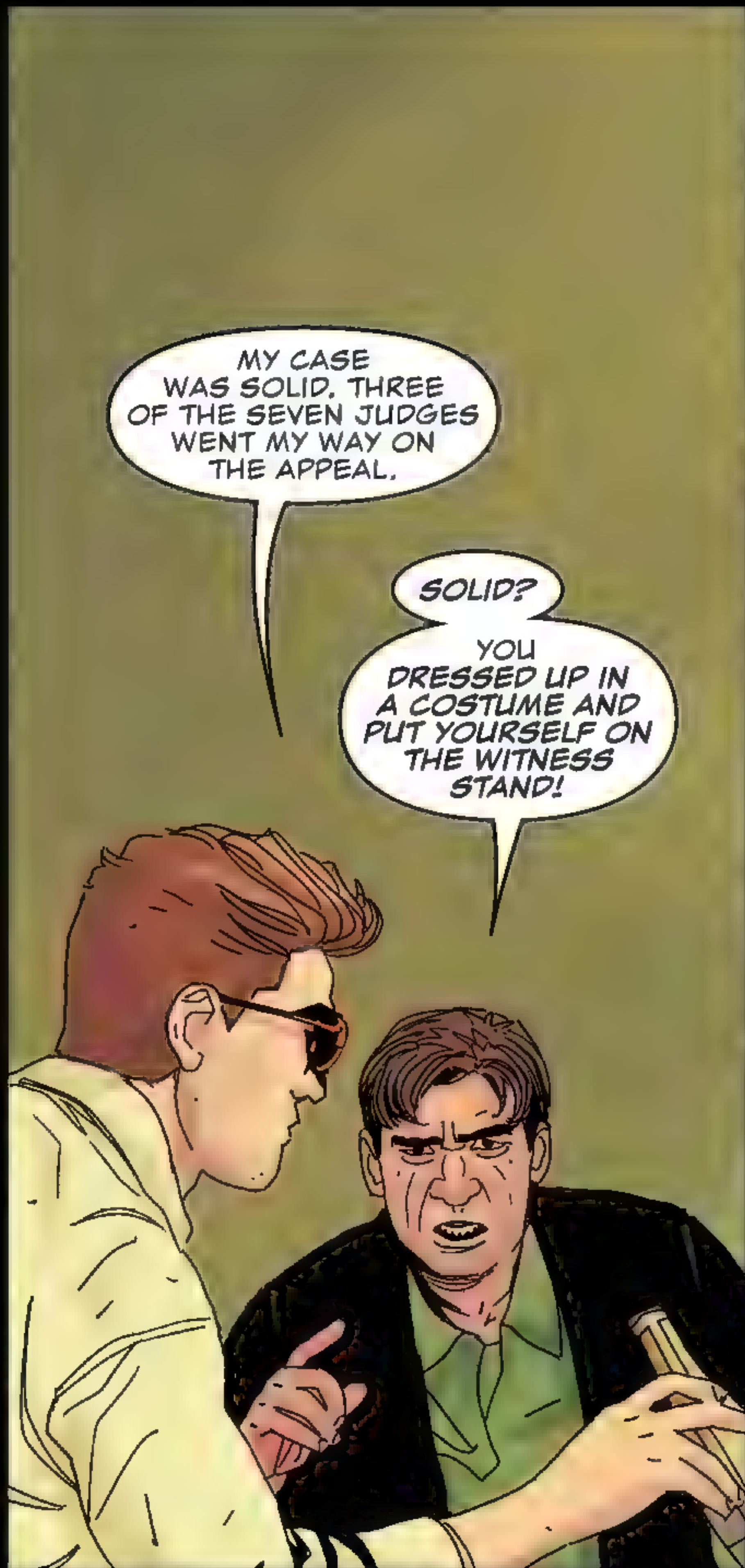


**DAILY NEWS**  
**MATT MURDOCK**  
**LOSER**  
Assistant District Attorney Matthew Murdock Drops the Ball at State Court of Appeals  
There was once a time when Matthew Murdock was considered one of the best lawyers in New York City. Those days, when he was a criminal defense attorney, he was the belle of the ball. A.D.A. The New York State Court of Appeals, a decision in People v. Sluggansky, but the high court didn't go all the way. We say right so - after all, "crime fighters" is well known for their activities is a...

EVERYONE'S HEARD, MATT.

YOU'RE A LAUGHINGSTOCK, BUDDY. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?





MY CASE WAS SOLID. THREE OF THE SEVEN JUDGES WENT MY WAY ON THE APPEAL.

SOLID?

YOU DRESSED UP IN A COSTUME AND PUT YOURSELF ON THE WITNESS STAND!



"YOU SCREWED UP AN EASY CONVICTION BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO PURSUE SOME DUMB IDEA ABOUT LETTING DAREDEVIL TESTIFY."

"WHICH, BY THE WAY, GOES COMPLETELY AGAINST THE OATH YOU TOOK WHEN YOU BECAME AN ATTORNEY."

"I HAVEN'T LOST THE SLUGANSKY CASE, FOGGY. IT'S NOT OVER. NOT YET."



WHAT? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TRYING FOR THE SUPREME COURT? OH, MATT...NO.

YES.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY CERT PETITIONS THE COURT ACTUALLY GRANTS? LESS THAN ONE PERCENT!

THEY'VE NEVER READ ONE OF OURS.

OURS? YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU WRITE THE... NO. NO WAY.



I SEE BOTH SIDES, YOU KNOW. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO DOES--WHAT YOU DO AS MATT MURDOCK, AND WHAT YOU DO AS DAREDEVIL.

THAT THING WITH THE CULT LEADER IN CHINATOWN...

...AND THEN THAT SERIAL KILLER...

...AND WHERE'S YOUR PAL BLINDSPOT, BY THE WAY?

DON'T HEAR MUCH ABOUT HIM ANYMORE.

NEW COSTUME, SAME OLD CRAP.





YOU STARTED YOUR LIFE OVER WHEN THE PURPLE CHILDREN RESET YOUR IDENTITY.

WELL, MATT... SO DID I. NO ONE'S TRIED TO KILL ME IN MONTHS, OTHER THAN A FEW CAB DRIVERS. I HAVE ALINA.

I LIKE LIFE WITHOUT DAREDEVIL.

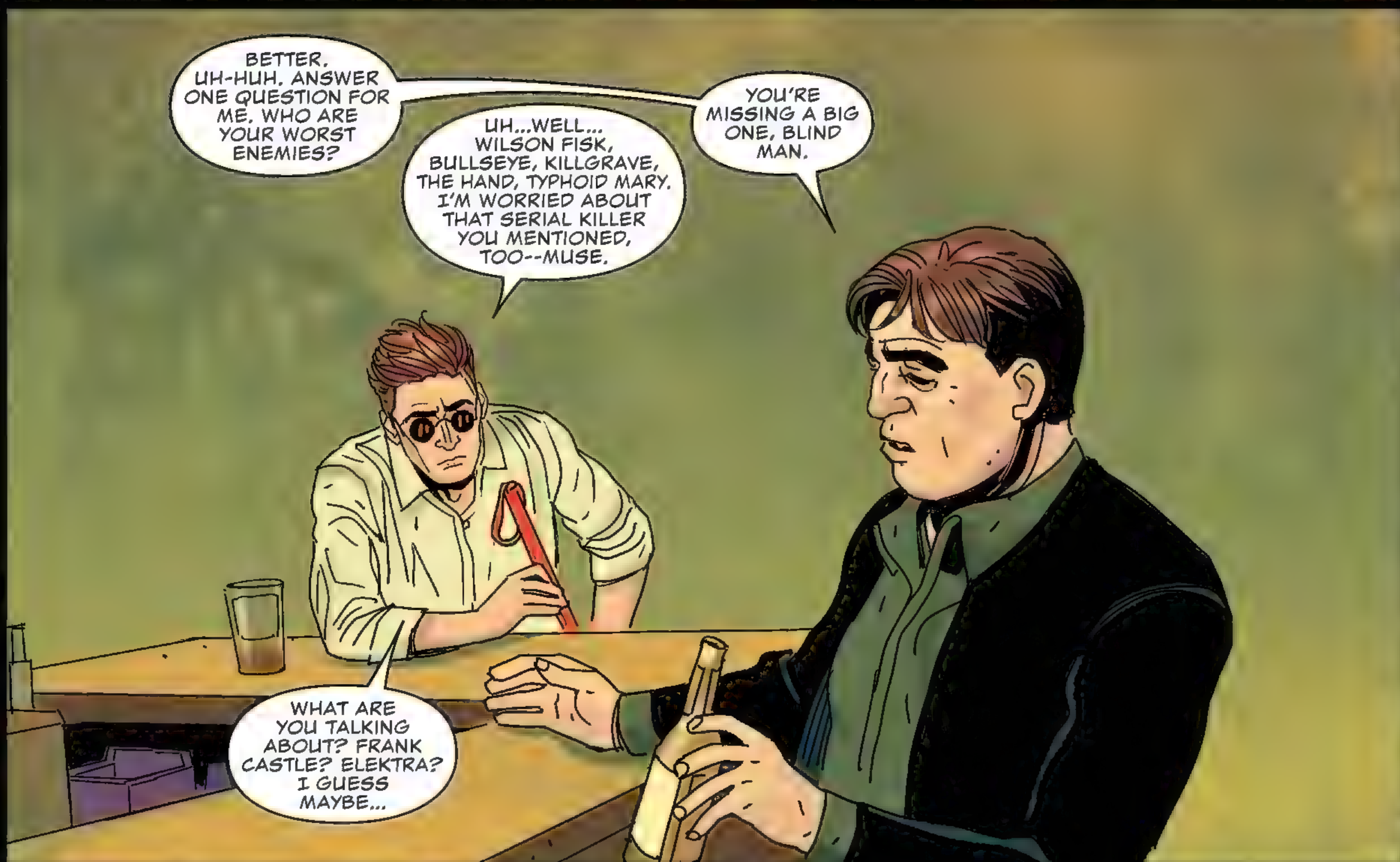
MAYBE YOU WOULD TOO, IF YOU'D JUST TRY IT.



I'M SAVING LIVES, FOGGY. AND THINGS HAVE CHANGED FOR ME. I'VE STARTED GOING TO CHURCH AGAIN, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE...

...SINCE KAREN.

I'M TRYING TO DO IT BETTER THIS TIME, TRYING TO DO IT RIGHT, THAT'S WHAT THE SLUGANSKY CASE IS ABOUT, TOO.



BETTER. UH-HUH. ANSWER ONE QUESTION FOR ME. WHO ARE YOUR WORST ENEMIES?

UH...WELL... WILSON FISK, BULLSEYE, KILLGRAVE, THE HAND, TYPHOID MARY. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT SERIAL KILLER YOU MENTIONED, TOO--MUSE.

YOU'RE MISSING A BIG ONE, BLIND MAN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? FRANK CASTLE? ELEKTRA? I GUESS MAYBE...



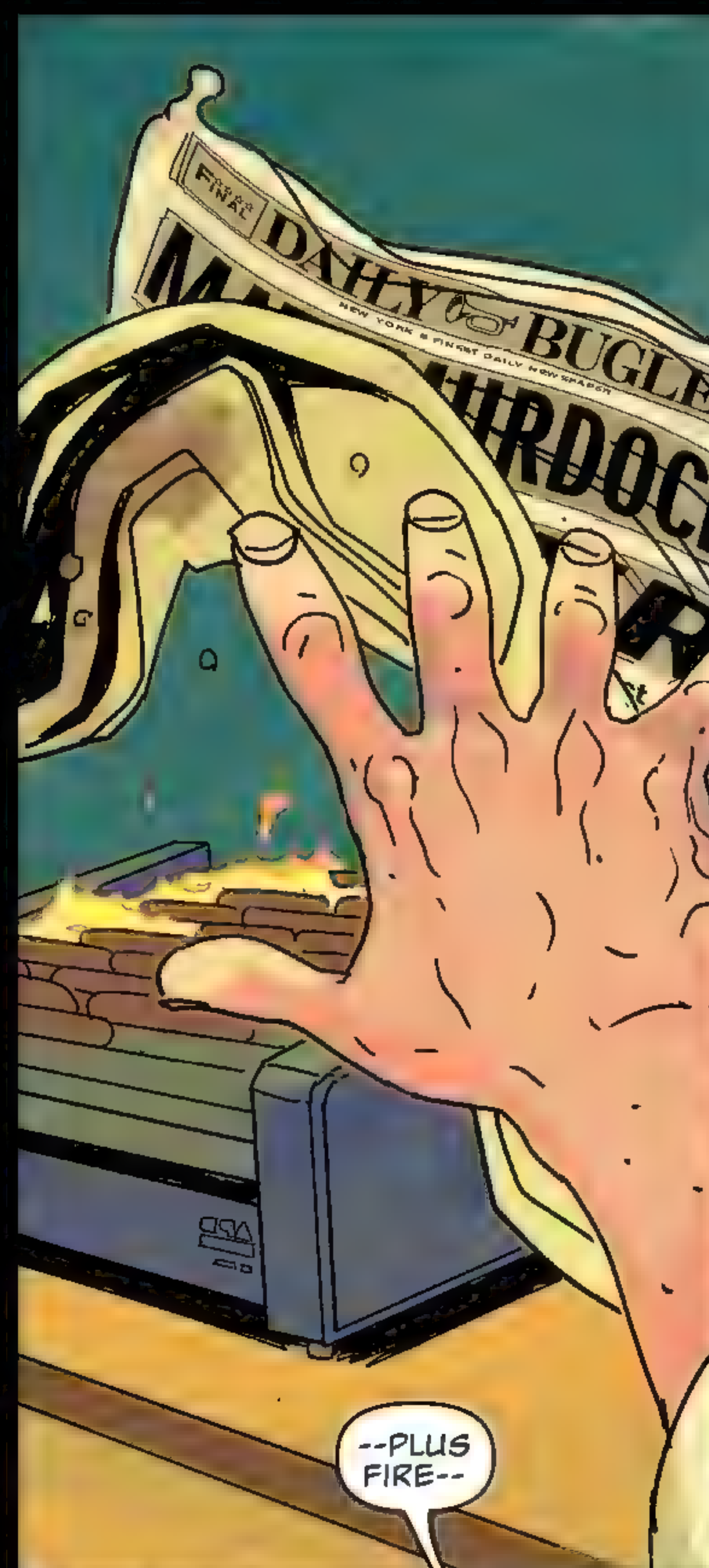
TOMBSTONE.

LONNIE LINCOLN? HE WISHES, ACTUALLY, I JUST SAW HIM-- HE TRIED TO--





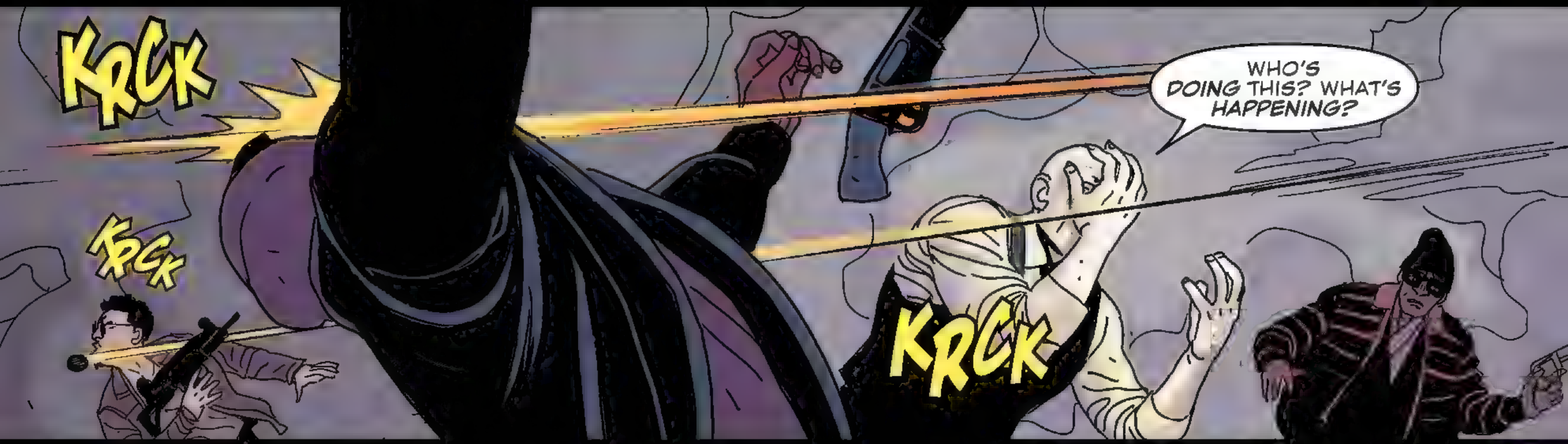




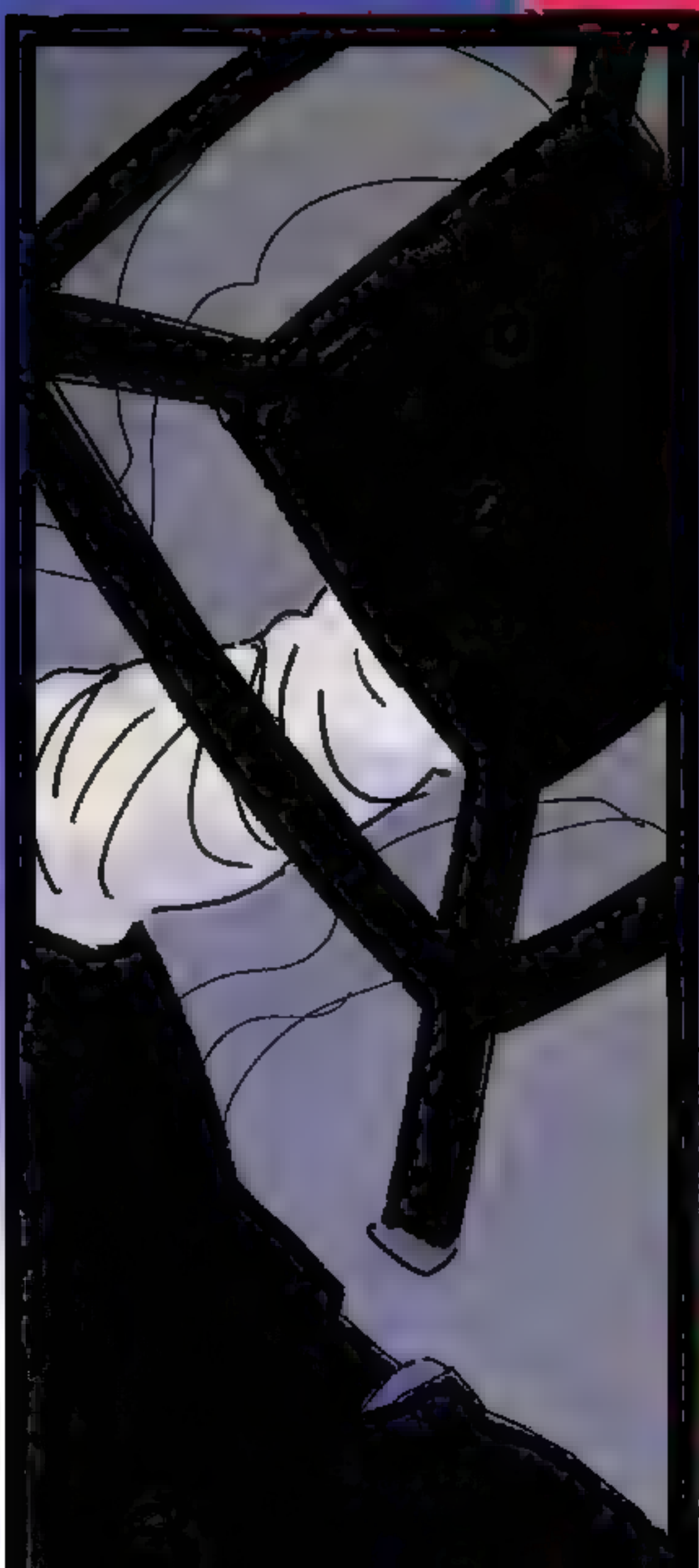




















WHAT WAS THIS, MATT? DOES TOMBSTONE KNOW YOU'RE DAREDEVIL OR SOMETHING?

NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW. NO--THIS WAS A MATT MURDOCK THING.

HE ATTACKED ME AT THE LAWYER BAR, TOO. JERK WON'T LET ME HAVE A DRINK IN PEACE. COULD JUST BE SOME OLD GRUDGE, BUT MY GUESS?

SOMEONE WANTS ME TO DROP THE SLUGANSKY CASE. PROBABLY THE SAME PERSON WHO HIRED THAT GUY LEGAL TO TAKE OVER THE DEFENSE. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT TELLS ME?



SOMEONE'S AFRAID.



I GET IT NOW, BY THE WAY. WHAT YOU WERE SAYING BEFORE. I'M MY OWN WORST ENEMY.

MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW. IT'S HARD TO TELL SOMETIMES. I DON'T SEE MYSELF THE WAY OTHER PEOPLE DO.

TO ME, A MIRROR'S JUST A PIECE OF GLASS.

TO ME, DAREDEVIL'S ONE OF THE VERY BEST THINGS I DO. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF MY LIFE.



TO YOU...HE'S THE OBSESSION THAT RUINED IT.

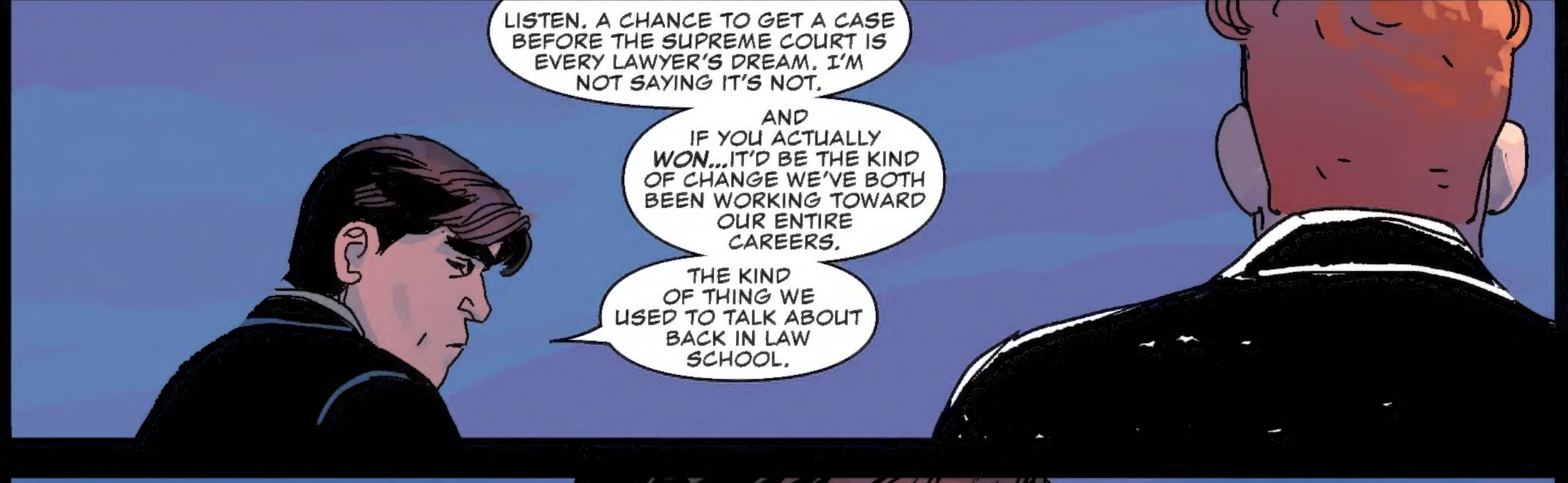
WE'RE BOTH RIGHT, I THINK.

I AM MY OWN WORST ENEMY.



THAT'S WHY I COULD USE A FRIEND.




A man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, is shown in profile, facing right. He is speaking to another man whose back is to the camera. The background is a solid blue color.

LISTEN. A CHANCE TO GET A CASE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT IS EVERY LAWYER'S DREAM. I'M NOT SAYING IT'S NOT.

AND IF YOU ACTUALLY WON...IT'D BE THE KIND OF CHANGE WE'VE BOTH BEEN WORKING TOWARD OUR ENTIRE CAREERS.

THE KIND OF THING WE USED TO TALK ABOUT BACK IN LAW SCHOOL.

A close-up profile of the man in the dark suit, looking down with a serious expression. The background is blue.

ALL OF THAT'S TRUE. BUT IT DOESN'T ANSWER THE ONE QUESTION I REALLY HAVE HERE, MATT. AFTER EVERYTHING, AFTER ALL OF IT...

WHY SHOULD I HELP YOU?



BECAUSE I'M SORRY.

FOR EVERYTHING. FOR ALL OF IT.

The man in the dark suit is shown from behind, reaching out with his right hand to place it on the shoulder of the red-haired man. The red-haired man is looking down. The background is blue.

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.





I'LL HELP. IT DOESN'T MEAN EVERYTHING'S FIXED BETWEEN US, AND IT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT WHAT I THINK YOU'RE DOING TO YOUR LIFE.



BUT, CONSIDERING THAT YOU WILL NOW HAVE MY CONSIDERABLE LEGAL EXPERTISE ON YOUR SIDE, IT DOES MEAN ONE THING.

WHAT'S THAT?



PAL, YOU'RE GOING TO THE SUPREME COURT.

TO BE CONTINUED...



# NEXT ISSUE:

## "SUPREME" CONCLUSION



# DAREDEVIL #25



